

Letter from Charles J. Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, September 17, 1909

American Security and Trust Company Incorporated under Act of Congress October 1890
L C J B Capital and Surplus Charles J. Bell \$4,700,000 President Washington, D. C.
September 17 1909 Dr. Alexander Graham Bell Baddeck, Cape Breton N.S. Canada My
dear Alec:

Mr. Cameron only returned to the City yesterday from New York, and until I could have a talk with him I could not well reply to your letter of July 20th.

I had quite a long conference with him yesterday and find that conditions surrounding the organization of a commercial company extremely embarrassing. It does not seem to me that we are at present in any condition to ask outsiders to put their money in, as apparently at present we have nothing to sell but a prospective litigation.

The tetrahedral, which some of us believe has great possibilities, has never flown— Mr. Baldwin and Mr. McCurdy had no success this year. On the other hand Curtis has made tremendous strides with the machine under 2 another name. I cannot find out whether he is using the association ideas, and Cameron cannot inform me. I understand he is to be in this country now very shortly, and think it would be better to wait for a conference with him and see exactly where he stands before doing anything. If he is using the association patents in his machine then we have something to go upon in asking our friends to put their money in. I understand also that you will be down about the middle of October, and I would suggest that we then get together with Curtis, as it might be, that a combination with him would be more advantageous than a separate organization; at any rate he is an important factor to consider. Of course it would be quite possible to go ahead and organize a company simply for the purpose of making a distribution of the stock equally among the

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different inventors, but this would not put money into the corporation for the purpose of carrying on its work.

Mr. Cameron tells me that no immediate steps are necessary in the Curtis suit matter.

I am going over to Baltimore this afternoon to meet a Committee in that city in regard to the holding of the Aviation Meet of 1910 at Washington. I doubt very much if we will be successful in getting it here but we can only try.

Yours faithfully, Charles